Rules., Regulations and activities, enables online filing of data right down from Clinics (including submission of From-F online by the Clinics), in the field to the District and State level and their retrieval at the District, State and National levels.

On the same occasion, the hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched a Toll Free Telephone (1800 110 500) under the PNDT Division of the Ministry to facilitate the public to lodge complaint anonymously, if so desired, against any violation of the provisions of the Act by any authority or individual and to seek PNDT related general information.

9. The Government, on continuing basis, is monitoring and taking action to strengthen the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act) as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms through the active participation of the State/UT Governments, NGOs and other institutions.

Prohibition of smoking

867. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a study made in advance relating to the implications involved in the prohibition of smoking in public places;

(b) whether it has not been felt that the implementation of this prohibition is difficult and impractical;

(c) whether there will be public co-operation and co-ordination in implementing this move; and

(d) what are the innovative, striking and unique methods to muster the cooperation of smokers to make the scheme a success and deter them from smoking once and for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per various studies related to health impact of second hand smoke, several thousand people who have never smoked die each year due to exposure to second hand smoke. Exposure of non-smokers to second hand smoke causes cancer, as well as many serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases in children and adults, often leading to death.

The Government of India has notified "The Prohibition of smoking in Public Places Rules, 2008" *vide* GSR No. 417(E) dated 30th May 2008 and it has come into force from 2nd October, 2008. The new Rules aim to protect the non-smokers from ill-effects of passive smoking/environmental tobacco smoke (ETS).

It is noteworthy that more than 2/3rd of the populations are non-smokers. The Rules only prohibit the smokers from smoking in a Public Place so that the health of vast majority of non-smoker is not compromised.

Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 18 Districts of 9 States during the year 2007-08. The programme broadly includes:

1. Capacity building of the State in the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003.
2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill-effects of Tobacco.
3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the Government Schools.
4. Mass media/ IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs.

It is hoped that strict implementation and monitoring of the laws by the State Governments coupled with awareness /mass media campaign will make the smoke free policy a success.